

September 3-4, 1998

Yeltsin, a loaf of heavy Russian bread

MOSCOW (R) — President Bill Clinton's tribute to Boris Yeltsin, under pressure, is at least that's what he is doing when he compared the Kremlin leader to a loaf of heavy Russian bread. Clinton was at the start of his first Kremlin summit with the solid black loaf on hand. Clinton was spring quickly to the shape. "It's amazing, like you," he said, to the Russian president who is stuck in the country's worst political crisis in years.

A menacing welcome message to pupils

MOSCOW (R) — Tax police warning pupils on their first day at school with a menacing message that their future would be determined by their parents' income tax authorities. The State Tax Service said you succeed in school, you succeed in life, success in your career is certain that if you will become a professional, a doctor, a lawyer, a student and you must understand that parents do not want to deprive the child of the right to a future.

Liberal Party's electronic low blow

CANBERRA (R) — Computer hackers have broken into the Liberal Party's electronic database, stealing information on the party's members and donors. The Liberal Party said it had been hacked.

To the cleaners or apologise

WINNIPEG (R) — A woman who was denied a job at a Winnipeg area shop said she planned to sue the establishment for discrimination. She said she was a cleaner and the shop owner refused to hire her because she was a single mother.

Conned into a gigolo

HONG KONG (R) — A woman was conning a man into sex with a gigolo, the police said. The woman had told the man that she was a prostitute and that she needed his help to get out of the country.

Muasher: King back at Mayo

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher said Friday that His Majesty King Hussein is in good health. In a telephone interview with Jordan News Agency, Petra, Muasher said that the King left Washington on Wednesday and headed for Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, to start the third session of chemotherapy which will last for four days. He pointed out that King Hussein enjoys high morale and responds very well to treatment, saying that the Monarch will return home once the treatment is complete.

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Israel gives up two demands in West Bank pullout talks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel is giving up two of its demands in negotiations with the Palestinians: the extradition of "terrorists" and a reduction in the number of Palestinian police, public television announced Friday. The government is making "major concessions on the eve of the visit of Dennis Ross," the U.S. special envoy for the Middle East who is scheduled to arrive here next week after a four-month absence. Ross is coming to give a push to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process which has been bogged down over negotiations for a further Israeli pullback from the West Bank. A formula will be found that allows the Palestinian Authority not to extradite to Israel Palestinian militants wanted for anti-Israeli attacks, the television said. The second concession involves dropping the demand for reductions in the Palestinian police force and the number of arms in their possession, the television said.

Iraqi Kurd leader vows not to help oust Saddam

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraqi Kurd leader Massoud Barzani said Friday that his Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) will not get involved in any plot to topple President Saddam Hussein. "Our policy is we will not allow anyone to use us as a card for such projects," Barzani said at a news conference here when asked how he would respond to a potential U.S. plan to overthrow Saddam when he meets U.S. officials in Washington next week. "We are not informed of any project to topple Saddam," Barzani added.

Israeli intelligence: Iran developing spy satellite

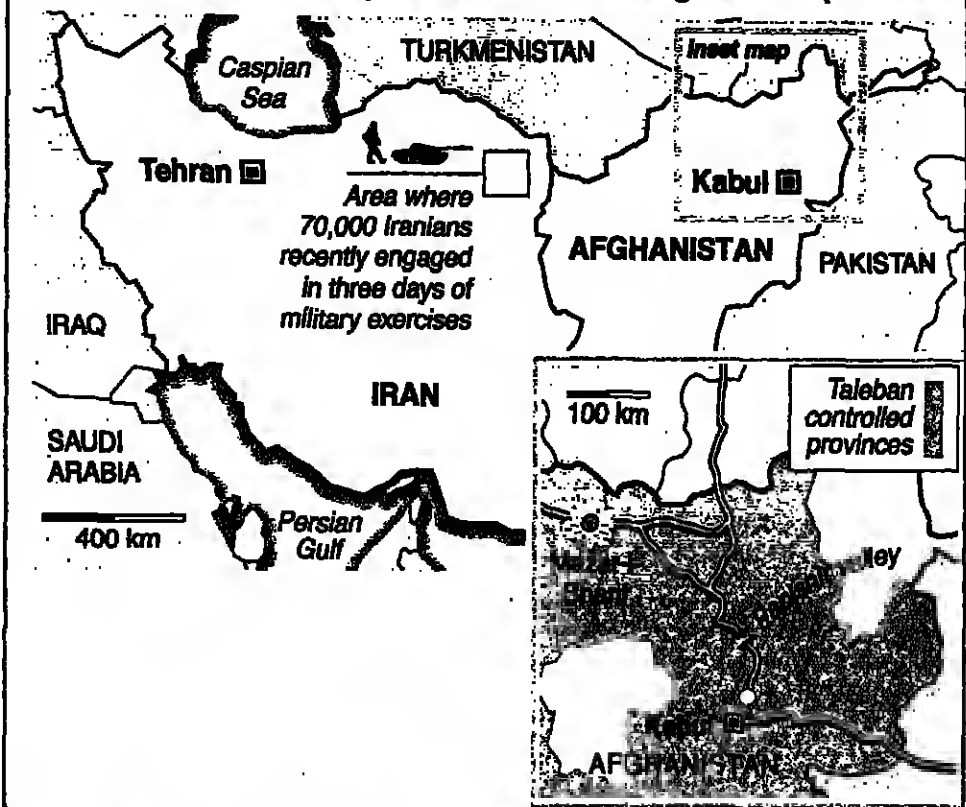
TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli intelligence officials believe Iran is developing a spy satellite as part of its ballistic missile programme, Israeli Channel 2 television reported Friday. The officials reached this conclusion from their analysis of Iranian television's video shots of Iranian ruler Ali Khamenei's recent visit to the missile development plant, Channel 2 said. In the video shots the analysts spotted a satellite launcher and what could be the basis for a spy satellite which could cover the entire Middle East including Israel, the TV said.

Yemen to apply again for Commonwealth membership

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen will try again to join the Commonwealth when the body meets in October in London. Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Saidi said Friday. "Yemen will present its request to join the Commonwealth again during the organisation's upcoming meeting," Saidi said in a statement to the weekly Sept. 26. "This request is still being studied," he said, adding that he was optimistic that this time Yemen will be accepted. Yemen first applied for Commonwealth membership at the end of 1996. The country's southern provinces were under British domination between 1839 and 1967.

IRANIAN WAR GAMES ON AFGHAN BORDER

Tensions have risen on the Afghan-Iran border as a Western human rights group accused Afghanistan's ruling Taliban of a massacre that could explain the disappearance of 10 missing Iranian diplomats



Afghan-Iran tensions mount as diplomats said dead

ISLAMABAD (R) — Tensions have risen on the Afghan-Iran border as a Western human rights group accused Afghanistan's ruling Taliban of a massacre that could explain the disappearance of 10 Iranian diplomats.

The quarrel is the bitterest yet between the Tehran and the Taliban, which controls most of Afghanistan but is refused recognition by most of the world.

Although both espouse radical forms of Islam, Iran's ruling clergy are Shiite Muslims and have long encouraged religious and ethnic groups opposing the Sunni, mainly Pushtoon Taliban.

About 70,000 Iranian troops, including Revolutionary Guards, paratroopers and commandos with tanks, are conducting war games in northeast Iran only 60 km from the Afghan border.

The Taliban describes the Iranian manoeuvres as threatening behaviour and denies knowing the fate of Iranian diplomats who were in the northern town of Mazar-e-Sharif when Taliban forces captured it from the opposition last month.

In a report issued on Thursday, Amnesty International (AI) said Taliban fighters massacred thousands of civilians of the Hazara ethnic minority after the fall of Mazar-e-Sharif — and possibly 10 Iranian diplomats and a journalist with them.

A Taliban spokesman dismissed the London-based human rights group's report as "false" and said it

was based on propaganda by the militia's enemies.

Iran has been saying for weeks that the Iranian diplomats and the correspondent had been arrested. The Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said on Tuesday they were "probably dead."

AI said its report on the massacre was based on "testimonies from eyewitnesses and surviving members of the victims' families."

"Taliban guards deliberately and systematically killed thousands of ethnic Hazara civilians during the first three days following their military takeover of Mazar-e-Sharif on 8 August 1998," it said, quoting what it called "new information" received by the group.

Thousands of Taliban fighters were killed in street fighting in Mazar-e-Sharif after the militia briefly captured the town last year.

"Since their arrival in Mazar-e-Sharif, the Taliban (forces) have sealed the area to foreign media and independent observers," Amnesty said.

"Eleven Iranian nationals (10 diplomats and one journalist) are said to have been killed when Taliban (militia) guards entered the Iranian consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif," the Amnesty statement said.

"Despite conflicting reports about their fate, eyewitnesses say that their bodies were left in the consulate for two days before being buried in a mass grave," it said.

Taliban authorities have denied having any information about the whereabouts

of the Iranians but they have acknowledged arresting 35 Iranian truck drivers.

Three of those truck drivers and two other Iranian prisoners were released on Thursday in the southern Afghan town of Kandahar on Thursday and flown to Islamabad by a special plane accompanied by Pakistani and Iranian diplomats.

The Amnesty report said vast majority of those killed in Mazar-e-Sharif were from the Hazara ethnic group living in Zarat, Saidabad, and Elm Arab areas of the city.

"This is all false," Taliban spokesman Abdul Wakil told Reuters by telephone from the southern Afghan town of Kandahar.

He said Amnesty had no representative in Mazar-e-Sharif and "this information is based on the propaganda of our opponents."

Tehran has refused to recognise the Taliban government in Kabul and co-ordinates ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani as Afghanistan's legitimate leader. It accuses the Taliban of bringing Islam into disrepute.

It also backs opposition leader Ahmad Shah Masood, who was reputed to be the Soviet army's most formidable Afghan foe during the 1980s Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and is still in his Panjshir valley base north of Kabul.

Premier set to win vote of confidence as he rallies support among deputies

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the new government prepares to face Parliament in two weeks for a vote of confidence, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh has been covering his bases by meeting with parliamentary blocs to secure support ahead of submitting his government's policy statement.

Following the tradition of former prime ministers awaiting Parliament's stamp of approval on their cabinets, Tarawneh met with Al Wifaq Bloc last week, and on Wednesday met with the Parliamentary Alliance Bloc and is expected to meet with the Democratic Solidarity bloc on Sunday.

During his meeting with the 14-member Parliamentary Alliance Bloc, led by former Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, deputies expressed their views on unemployment, poverty, privatisation, setting a minimum wage, economic reforms as well as other economic issues.

According to Abul Ragheb, deputies also complained of problems facing the private sector due to lack of cooperation on the side of the government, the lack of credibility and transparency in the manner in which governments deal with different problems and ways of combating corruption, nepotism and the bloated bureaucracy.

However, he told the Jordan Times that he was pleased with the general outcome of the meeting which lasted for four and a half hours, hinting that his bloc would give the government a vote of confidence.

"The prime minister was very responsive and he seems willing to cooperate at all levels,"

"We like to support a government that can do something," Abul Ragheb said. "The general mood [among the bloc] was that we should look objectively at this government and give it a chance."

One member of the 14-man Al Wifaq bloc, led by National Constitutional Party Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali,



Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh

echoed Abul Ragheb's response regarding their meeting with the Premier.

"The meeting went well, and the prime minister seems willing to cooperate," Mohammad Thweib told the Jordan Times.

Tarawneh is expected to meet with the 16-member Democratic Solidarity Bloc, led by Barjis Hadid, on Sunday. House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour is also a member of the bloc.

One overriding concern among the blocs was Tarawneh's recent announcement that ministers, who are also members of the Senate, should resign from the Upper House of Parliament to ensure the principle of separation of powers between the executive and legislative authorities and to allow the House to exercise its role in monitoring the government's performance.

Reports in the Arabic press said Tarawneh's move aimed to "please" deputies upset that the House was not consulted on the makeup of the Cabinet and that the government included senators but did not include any deputies.

Deputies, however, were angered by the move and said it was "unconstitutional," since it also means that deputies cannot

join the Cabinet.

"This unprecedented move does not show respect to deputies for not being included in the Cabinet," said Abul Ragheb, who said he believes in parliamentary governments.

He said many governments in the past were made up of deputies. Both former Prime Ministers Taher Massi and Abdul Karim Kabariti were members of the House when they formed their governments in 1992 and 1996 respectively. They had an overwhelming majority of deputies in their cabinets.

"The Constitution allows for the inclusion of deputies and senators in the government, asking the ministers to resign from the Senate is a violation of the Constitution," Deputy Khalil Atiyeh said.

On a different note, the nine-member National Bloc is inclined to vote against the newly-appointed government, according to Atiyeh.

"The present intention among the members is to vote against the government," he said.

He said his bloc, which has not met with Tarawneh yet, will prefer to meet with the prime minister a few days before he submits his policy statement to have more time to observe the government's performance.

Obtaining the House confidence will not be a difficult task for the Cabinet, according to deputies and observers. They added that around 50 deputies are expected to vote in favour of Tarawneh's government, formed amid rising accusations against the former government of Abdul Salam Majali of failing to meet people's needs, and of nepotism and corruption.

According to the Constitution, 41 deputies have to vote against a government for it to fail.

The former government of Abdul Salam Majali won the vote of confidence with 51 voice votes last year.

Lockerbie suspects' lawyer demands protection guarantees

TRIPOLI (AFP) — The lawyer for two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie bombing insisted Thursday on guarantees that the pair will not be kidnapped or expelled if they are sent to the Netherlands for trial.

Ibrahim Legwell told AFP he was demanding a "guarantee that the two suspects will not be abducted or deported to another country" once they go to the Netherlands for trial under Scottish law and by Scottish judges.

Washington must also "give up its demand to the Hague that they be tried after the agreed-on trial under an existing accord between the Netherlands and the United States," he said, without elaborating.

Legwell also demanded "an agreement between Tripoli and the Hague on their transfer to the Netherlands" for trial for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people perished.

Arrangements for the "social and religious life" during the trial of Abdul Bassat Ali

Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah must also be worked out, he said.

These are "demands, not conditions," he added. Legwell said Dutch lawyers have been appointed to the defence team which already includes African, American, Arab, French, German, Maltese, Scottish and Swiss lawyers.

The defence team met Monday in Tripoli to discuss details of the U.S.-British proposal.

"The recommendations which preceded the international penal court's creation suggested that any sentence should be served in the country where it was handed down, for humanitarian reasons," Legwell said.

"Our goal now is to hold the trial in a third country," he added.

An Arab League delegation is also in Tripoli to hold talks with Libyan officials and the defence lawyers on guarantees for the suspects, demands which have been rejected.

League Assistant Secretary General Ahmad Ben Helli said the team brought several ideas concerning the need for agree-

ment on arrangements and guarantees for the appearance of the two Libyans before the court.

Ben Helli said the league wanted "to ensure an Arab position in support of Libya" in this matter.

The league's Libyan representative, Salma Rashed, said Tuesday the delegation will hold talks on a Lockerbie trial "formula" that will represent the "united Arab position."

"We are expecting positive developments," she said.

Tripoli initially welcomed an offer by Britain and the United States to try the suspects in the Netherlands using Scottish law and Scottish judges.

But after first saying that Tripoli accepted the offer with "no conditions" Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi called both for negotiations on the procedures of the trial and "guarantees" on the fate of the suspects, demands which have been rejected.

Libya also insists that the Arab League pass a resolution demanding the "immediate" lifting of the sanctions by Arab

countries at its ministerial meeting to be held in Cairo in two weeks' time.

The United Nations imposed sanctions on Tripoli in 1992 over its refusal to extradite the suspects for trial in the United States or Britain.

Qadhafi held talks Thursday in Tripoli with the Saudi ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar Ben Sulzan, on the latest developments in the Lockerbie affair, Libyan television reported.

The talks focused on the "coordination required to implement the initiative aimed at resolving amicably" the Lockerbie dossier, it said.

Libyan television said Bandar was sent to Tripoli by Saudi King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah to inquire about the health of Qadhafi who underwent surgery in July.

The television cited a new statement by the Libyan foreign ministry reiterating "the need to negotiate with Libya, directly or through an agreed third party, measures to assure the success of the initiative and to lift the sanctions."

Arafat says progress unlikely as Ross heads to region

Agencies

AS WASHINGTON resumed Mideast mediation efforts, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Friday that a deal on an Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank was not close at hand.

Israeli officials have said the gaps between the two sides have narrowed, but Arafat said little progress has been made.

"Actually, they [Israelis] are saying so but the gaps are still wide," Arafat told reporters in Gaza City after returning from a visit in South Africa.

U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross plans to arrive in the region next week to try and wrap up a deal. On the table is an American proposal for an Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank, to be met by a Palestinian crackdown on Islamists.

Asked whether he believed Ross would be able to persuade Israel to agree to the U.S. initiative, Arafat said: "I don't think so." "This is not the first time that Ross is coming here," Arafat said.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Ross would meet with Netanyahu and Arafat early next week "on the chances of the parties reaching agreement on the basis of the U.S. initiative." Israel originally rejected the U.S. initiative but recently softened its position, saying it was ready to hand over 10 per cent in full and another three per cent with some conditions.

If the Ross visit proves successful, Clinton might try to arrange a meeting with Netanyahu and Arafat around Sept. 23, when both leaders are in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, Israel media reported.

The United States put its mediation attempts on hold several weeks ago and

'This is not the first time that Ross is coming here'

asked the sides to work out a deal themselves.

Clinton decided to send Ross to the region after talking Wednesday by phone to Arafat and Netanyahu who both

requested the envoy's visit.

The U.S. president expressed dissatisfaction with Netanyahu, a senior U.S. official told reporters travelling in Ireland with Clinton.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Clinton later called Arafat, who was attending a conference in South Africa. He offered no description of the conversation.

Meanwhile, Israel hit out at South African President Nelson Mandela on Friday over his criticism of the Jewish state during the Non-Aligned summit this week.

The foreign ministry said Mandela's remarks blaming Israel for the 18-month deadlock in the Middle East peace process were "unpleasant and unhelpful."

During the conference in Durban, South Africa, Mandela criticised Netanyahu for

"blocking progress towards a just and peaceful solution" to the problems in the Middle East, "including the formation of a sovereign state of Palestine."

Press reports in Israel said Mandela accused Netanyahu's rightwing government of pursuing "narrow, chauvinistic interests."

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians have been at an impasse largely over the Jewish state's settlement policies in occupied territories.

In their final declaration Friday, heads of state from the Non-Aligned Movement expressed "deep concern over the current deadlock in the Middle East peace process... as a result of the policies and actions of the Israeli government, in violation of existing agreements, including settlement activities."

September 5, 1998

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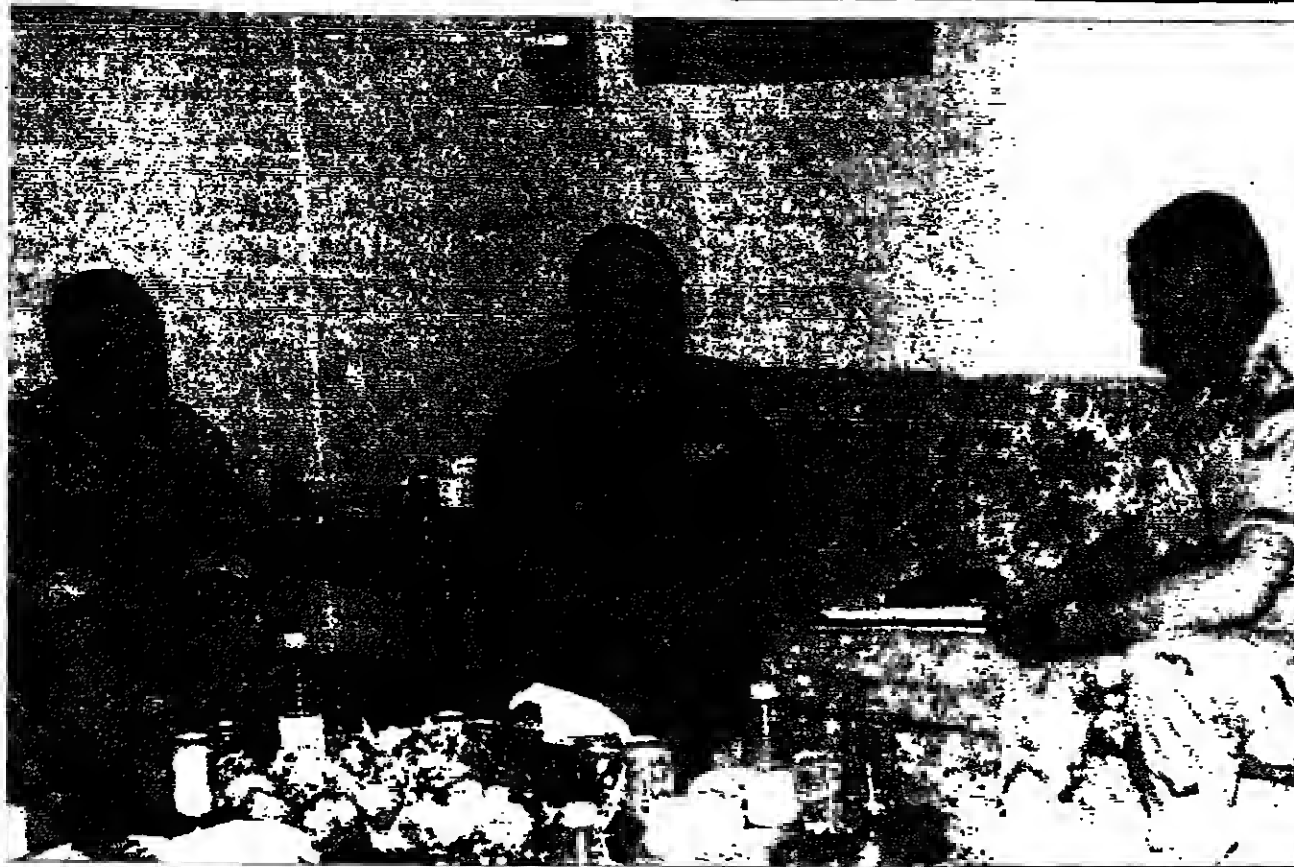
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U.S. Joint
Chiefs of Staff
chairman
concludes
visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, Henry Shelton, Friday concluded a two-day visit to Jordan.

On Thursday, Shelton was received by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Kaabneh, with whom he discussed bilateral military cooperation and coordination.

Earlier, Shelton met with HRH Prince Abdullah, commander of the Special Forces, and HRH Prince Faisal and reviewed military exercises with live ammunition at a Special Forces training field.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Henry Shelton, who left the Kingdom Friday following a two-day visit (Jordan Armed Forces photo)

National fund temporarily
suspends emergency aid
programme — report

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development has temporarily suspended the emergency cash aid provided to needy families through the National Aid Fund (NAF) pending a comprehensive policy review.

A report in the Arabic daily Al Rai on Friday quoted a ministry source as saying that the suspension will be effective until the ministry has re-examined the current system with a view to introducing measures that would ensure fair distribution.

Last week, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser described the present mechanism of providing assistance to needy groups as "inefficient" due to a lack of coordination among aid

institutions.

Mamser added that a total of JD140 million in social assistance programmes were spent last year benefiting a total of 65,000 needy families.

At present, the NAF is only distributing "emergency" funds in humanitarian situations, the source said, adding that this assistance will be resumed once the NAF has completed its revision of the situation and conducted an assessment of cases that require immediate attention.

The ministry source said the suspension will not affect families that receive regular payments of up to JD82 per month and who live at or below the poverty line.

Road accident in Tafileh
leaves 2 dead, 7 injured

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two people were struck and killed and seven other pedestrians, including three children, were injured Thursday when the brakes of a fuel tanker heading down a steep incline in Tafileh failed, according to official sources.

Ibtihal Sa'aydeh, 12, and Sumayah Jarab'ah, 27, were waiting at a bus stop on their way to a wedding when the tanker driver veered around a right hand corner and ran onto the right shoulder. The truck first hit Sa'aydeh and Jarab'ah, then ran into the seven other victims, including a five-year-old Attalah Qabab, whose legs were severed in the acci-

dent, an official said. He added that the injured were sitting under an olive tree near the roadside.

The accident occurred at around 1:00 p.m., according to the official.

He said the tanker driver blared his horn and flashed his lights to warn people as his vehicle careened down the road, but the vehicle was moving swiftly and the victims did not notice the danger as they were around the bend in the road.

When the vehicle's tyres began to smoke, the driver, Jumah Mobammad, 35, broke the driver's seat window and jumped out of the truck, according to the official. He said the tanker reached a sharp turn and rolled over.

It was the driver who telephoned the Civil Defence Department on his mobile phone to report the accident.

"Luckily, rescue teams and fire engines were nearby. They extinguished the fire quickly, averting what would have been a disaster had the flames from the tyres ignited the diesel contained in the tanker," the official said.

Attalah and his six-year-old brother Abdul Hamid were taken by helicopter to King Hussein Medical Centre for treatment, the source said.

The five others injured were rushed to Prince Zeid Ben Hussein Hospital in Tafilah, he added.

Last year 577 people were killed and 16,529 injured in Jordan in 39,005 road accidents.

Rifai calls on NAM to work
toward Middle East peace

DURBAN (Petra) — Senate President Zeid Rifai has called on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to help revive the Middle East peace process and contribute toward the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Addressing the 12th NAM summit in Durban, South Africa, Rifai said the NAM can use its international political clout to exert pressure on Israel to force it to abide by the accords signed with the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian people.

Rifai, representing His Majesty King Hussein at the summit, noted that the peace process was halted last year due to the present Israeli government's intran-

sigence, its refusal to implement the signed accords and its continued policy of building Jewish settlements on Palestinian lands.

He said Israel has been carrying out a systematic policy of demolishing Arab homes, arresting Palestinians and committing other atrocities in violation of basic human rights. Rifai said Israel is also pursuing its drive to Judaize Arab east Jerusalem.

Israel must accept the idea of resuming negotiations on the Syrian track from the point at which they were stopped and should abide by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the Madrid peace conference

and the concept of exchanging land for peace, said Rifai.

Rifai pointed out that a number of Arab states have been placed under sanctions and economic embargoes, which he said have resulted in suffering on the part of children, women and the elderly and deprivation of food, medicine and basic human necessities.

This situation, the Senate president added, has devastated Iraq's infrastructure and contributed to the region's instability.

On the issue of terrorism, Rifai called on the NAM to draw up a code of conduct and devise specific measures to combat terrorism and enhance the rule of the law.



Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh meets with the visiting PLO delegation (Petra photo)

Prime minister meets with
visiting PLO delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinians in their drive to gain their national rights and establish an independent state on Palestinian soil.

Speaking at a meeting Thursday with a visiting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said the government will work toward fulfilling its national and pan-Arab duties as directed by His Majesty King Hussein in his letter

of designation.

"We are deeply worried and concerned over the sufferings of our Palestinian brothers. This concern stems from the special relationship between the Palestinian and the Jordanian peoples," said Tarawneh.

The delegation, which included Mohammad Nashashibi from the PLO's executive committee, Palestinian Finance Minister Yaser Amer and Faisal Hussein, reaffirmed the Palestinian people's interest in further expanding

economic ties with Jordan.

The delegation members voiced hope that close cooperation would continue through the higher joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee and that visits by officials from two sides would further cement bilateral relations.

The two sides agreed on the need to increase efforts at the Arab, regional and international levels to end the current deadlock in the peace process.

The meeting was also attended by Palestinian Ambassador Omar Kharib.



BOOKS FOR SALE: Literature fans search through a stack of books in downtown yesterday in search of interesting reading material for the new school year (Photo by Youssef Allan)

Jet crash kills 229

(Continued from page 12)

Debris — a pocketbook, shoes, a necklace, a baby sling — was found about an hour after the plane was reported missing.

Wreckage from the crash spread out over ten kilometres, and fishermen helping with the rescue effort said the smell of fuel was overwhelming.

Roy Bears, a Canadian aviation safety investigator, said divers were using sonar to map the debris field and try to locate the two black boxes — one, a voice recorder and the other recording with technical data on the flight — in about 50 metres of water.

Bears said early indications are that it was not a terrorist act.

"There were 16 minutes elapsed from the time they initially declared an urgent situation — smoke in the cockpit" to the time the craft disappeared from radar, he said. "At this point... the crew did not think they have anything that would indicate a terrorist act."

The White House and the FBI agreed terrorism likely was not a factor in the crash, although the FBI was studying passenger manifests. President Bill Clinton, who was visiting Northern Ireland Thursday, was being regularly briefed.

"We are deeply grieved," Clinton told reporters, expressing his condolences to the families.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien also extended condolences. Canadian officials were scrambling to find 1,000 hotel rooms needed for relatives of the dead, emergency staff and investigators.

Swissair was flying relatives from Zurich to Halifax on Friday. It said the passenger list will not be released until family members are notified — probably not until Saturday.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, a former professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and a pioneer in the fight against AIDS, was among the dead, along with his wife, according to the World Health Organisation. The United Nations said seven U.N. workers returning to headquarters in Geneva

were on board the plane.

"It was like a U.N. air bus," said spokesman Fred Eckhard in New York. "Even before we got confirmation that there were U.N. staff on the flight, we just knew from the identification of the flight that there would've been some of our people on that plane." The three-engine plane dumped tons of fuel over nearby St. Margaret's Bay before crashing. The Canadian Press quoted an airport worker as saying:

At the airports in New York and Geneva, grief counsellors were on hand for relatives of the crash victims. A special lounge was set up in the Delta Air Lines terminal at Kennedy Airport.

It was the first crash of a Swissair plane since Oct. 7, 1979, when one of its DC-8s overshot the runway in Athens, Greece, while attempting to land and burst into flames. Fourteen people were killed.

The plane was put into service in August 1991 and was overhauled in August and September last year, said Georges Schorrdet, the chief financial officer of parent company SAirGroup. It had been checked as all are before take-off, he added.

The McDonnell Douglas MD-11 is a jet known for its reliability, even though its manufacturer, Boeing, has announced plans to discontinue the model in the year 2000.

Swissair will check its 15 remaining MD-11s in the wake of the crash, Bruggisser said. The fleet will only be brought back into service when it's been established there are no technical problems, he said. That process could take days or months.

Beshara vows to continue resistance

(Continued from page 12)

Beshara said: "I am ashamed of talking about a few electric shocks... when recalling the Qana massacre," where 105 civilians were killed in a 1996 Israeli shelling in south Lebanon.

Television and radio stations across Lebanon interrupted regular programmes to broadcast the "great national news" of Beshara's release.

The communist-run Voice of the People radio aired nationalist songs and broadcast messages of congratulations from listeners.

"This is a historical moment. She is the flower of the south, the cedar of Lebanon," said one caller.

"She is the living proof of the staunch, unended Lebanese resistance," said another.

Last year, Lahad told AFP that he would liberate Beshara "because she is a poor girl who was intoxicated and lured into committing an error," but that he did not want her to become a "Lebanese Joan of Arc."

But she, nevertheless, became a symbol of resistance to the Israeli occupation for many groups, including

her communist party and the Shiite Moslem Hezbollah, which spearheads guerrilla attacks in south Lebanon.

Her name was on a list presented by Lebanon during negotiations for the body of a slain Israeli commando that secured the release in June of numerous Lebanese detainees and the return of the remains of anti-Israeli guerrillas.

But at that time Israel did not agree to her release.

About 42 Lebanese are still detained in prisons inside Israel and nearly 125 at Khiam, according to a prisoners committee.

what's going on

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '98 FESTIVAL
"Summer '98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

EXHIBITIONS
* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiani at the Main House.
* Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.
* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.
* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by

Jordanian artist Hussein Da'sh at the Museum.

CONCERT
* Concert by the Malaysian Kuala Lumpur Folkloric Dance Band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
* Paintings by Rula Shukri at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.
* Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Bandak at Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.

The Editor and Staff of the Jordan Times
mourn the passing of
Bassant Hassan Shukri
grandmother of their friend and colleague
Alia Shukri Hamzeh.
May her soul rest in peace.

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Embattled Clinton hopeful on N. Irish peace

DUBLIN (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton voiced confidence Friday about the prospects for peace in Northern Ireland as controversy over his affair with Monica Lewinsky dogged the southern leg of his whirlwind Irish tour.

Clinton, buoyed by the warm reception he received across Northern Ireland Thursday, spoke of his "personal passion" for the Irish question and said he hoped his visit would help maintain the momentum for peace.

Clinton hinted that he expected Northern Irish Protestant leader David Trimble and his arch political rival, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, to break another long-standing taboo next week by meeting face to face for the first time.

"The statements in the last few days by Gerry Adams and Mr. Trimble's response make me quite hopeful about next week, and then after that we'll just have to see where we go from there," Clinton told reporters at a picture-taking session with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

Ahern heaped praise on Clinton for his unstinting efforts to help Northern Ireland draw a line under three decades of sectarian and political conflict over the future of British rule of the province in which 3,600 have been killed.

"What the president's visit has done is that it's got the parties to move, on what

might have taken weeks and months, over a very short period," Ahern said.

Ahern, too, suggested that Clinton's visit was likely to lead to a breakthrough meeting between Adams, whose party is the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, and Trimble, whose Ulster Unionist Party is the largest grouping representing Northern Ireland's pro-British Protestant majority.

"I just believe that this visit at this time has been immensely important. It's given confidence to us all to move on. It's given particular confidence, I think, to the Unionist Party and Sinn Féin to make moves that are very beneficial to the process," Ahern said.

Unfortunately for Clinton, the success of his diplomacy risked being overshadowed by new criticism of his extra-marital relationship with Lewinsky, a former White House intern.

Questioned by a reporter, Clinton said for the first time he was sorry about the affair, which has shaken his presidency.

He changed the tone of his remarks a day after Connecticut Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman said Clinton's behaviour had been "immoral" and called for a fuller acceptance of responsibility.

"I can't disagree with anyone else who wants to be critical of what I have already acknowledged was indefensible," Clinton said. "I've already said I made a bad mistake and it was

indefensible and I'm sorry."

In another blow to his presidency, Justice Department officials said U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was reviewing whether to seek an independent counsel to investigate fund-raising activities in Clinton's 1996 reelection campaign.

Clinton said helping to achieve peace in Northern Ireland was particularly important to him because the United States had a responsibility in the post-cold war era to minimise the impact of ethnic, religious, tribal and racial conflicts around the globe.

Echoing comments he made in the Northern Irish town of Armagh Thursday, Clinton said sealing peace in the British-ruled province would set an example to politicians from the Middle East to the Aegean, from the Indian sub-continent to Africa.

"The potential impact of resolving this could wash over many more people that just those that live on this island," Clinton said.

Clinton and Ahern planned to attend a reception together with several hundred people from Ireland's government, business, trade union and farming communities.

Later Friday Clinton was expected to visit a U.S. computer company. Saturday he visits the western city of Limerick and then plays golf in the western Irish golfing mecca of Ballybunion before flying back to Washington.

United States warns N. Korea against further military tests

TOKYO (AP) — The United States considers North Korea's missile launch over Japan earlier this week a serious threat to Japan's security and has warned the North against carrying out any further launches, a senior official said Friday.

U.S. officials say North Korea test fired a Taepo Dong 1 ballistic missile Monday that flew across northern Japan and crashed into the Pacific Ocean. The first stage, or booster, landed in the Sea of Japan.

The firing was a threat to Japan's national security and the United States would work with its Asian ally to formulate a response to that threat, a senior U.S. defence official said during a trip to Japan Friday.

One measure would likely be an agreement by Japan to join the United States in developing a ballistic missile defence system, said the official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Also Friday, Japan's defence chief was quoted as saying Japan would not rule out a military strike against North Korea bases if it were under attack by the Communist country.

In response to a reporter's question, Fukushima Nukaga, director general of the defence agency, said a government understanding dating from 1956 permits Japan to carry out such an attack in self-defence, but only as a last resort, if it were under attack, Kyodo News reported.

Japan has long been wary of its Communist neighbour and the missile launch greatly increased fears here about the possibility, however remote, of an attack on Japan.

In an apparent denial of U.S. Japanese and South Korean claims that Monday's launch was a test of a military missile, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Friday that the country

had successfully put its first satellite in orbit.

The satellite "will contribute to promoting scientific research for peaceful use" and was broadcasting revolutionary hymns praising leader Kim Jong-Il, KCNA said.

Thursday, Japan placed its forces on increased alert when signs emerged that North Korea could be preparing for another launch. Russia's Interfax news agency Friday quoted an unidentified Russian military intelligence source as saying the North was planning a second launch Saturday.

The U.S. defence official refused to say whether a second missile launch was expected.

Japanese officials called Monday's launch the first test for the Taepo Dong 1, a missile capable of striking any part of Japan, including U.S. military bases that are home to some 50,000 American troops.

Planes line Paris avenue in flight commemoration

PARIS (R) — Tourists riding sightseeing buses on Paris' wide Champs-Élysées gawked in surprise Friday when they spotted dozens of planes from World War I fighters to modern attack helicopters parked along the celebrated avenue.

The 50 aircraft, all in mint flying condition, are to be exhibited until Sept. 27 as part of 100th anniversary celebrations of the Aero-Club de France, the country's foremost aviation society.

"The Aero-club de France played a major role in the early days of the history of aviation and this striking exhibit is really a fitting tribute to it," said exhibitor Franklin Devaux.

Officials said the free exhibit was the biggest air show ever held in a city and they expected it would be seen by 3.5 million people.

Devaux, 55, is the proud owner of a PBY Catalina flying boat which he stood

next to while waiting for mechanics to reassemble its dismantled wing and engines. They had been taken off to allow the aircraft to be driven into Paris.

Many of the planes were brought to the city centre by barge along the River Seine and unloaded near the Champs-Élysées.

Only helicopters were allowed to land directly on the avenue although some small fixed-wing aircraft like a replica of the plane flown by Louis Blériot across the English Channel in 1909 could theoretically have landed on the avenue if allowed.

"My Catalina is not a replica. This is a bona fide war veteran which sank a German U-boat off the coast of Iceland on April 17, 1944, while flying for the Royal Canadian Air Force," Devaux said.

The fanatical air enthusiast said that after the exhibit he would fly the Catalina to Santiago in Chile to commemorate the

efforts of the first pilots, mostly Frenchmen, who flew mail from Europe across the Atlantic and the Andes Mountains to the Pacific Coast of South America some 70 years ago.

Possibly the best-known such pilot was writer-aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry of "The Little Prince" fame.

Across the avenue from the Catalina, mechanics from the Dassault firm were assembling a Rafale fighter which is to take over shortly as the main combat aircraft of the French air force.

Further up, its wings folded as if about the be lowered into the hold of an aircraft carrier, was a sleek Corsair fighter-bomber, a mainstay of the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II.

"Truly, some of the planes here are flying legends," sighed Devaux as tourists snapped away with cameras.



Former Rwandan Prime Minister Jean Kambanda listens to the court proceedings at the Rwandan Tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania. The court imposed the maximum sentence of life imprisonment and called the genocide the 'crime of crimes' (Reuters photo)

U.N. tribunal sentences Rwandan to life for genocide

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AP) — In the first sentence by an international court for genocide, a U.N. tribunal Friday ordered a former Rwandan prime minister to serve life in prison for the slaughter of more than 500,000 of his countrymen in 1994.

Jean Kambanda, the highest-ranking former political leader in the tribunal's custody, stood stoically as the three-judge panel rejected his pleas for leniency in order to send a strong signal that genocide will not be tolerated.

"Jean Kambanda abused his authority and the trust of the population," said Chief Judge Laitia Kama of Senegal. "Nor has he expressed contrition, regret, or sympathy for the victims in Rwanda even when given the opportunity."

Gasps of relief rippled through the audience, many of whom were Rwandans who survived the three-month killing frenzy. They had waited nearly four years for the tribunal, which has been troubled by mismanagement and corruption, to sentence its first convict.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda said the sentencing of Kambanda, 42, was the first for the crime of genocide by an international court.

All those accused in the post-World War II Nuremberg trials pleaded innocent to charges including murder and extermination.

The trials pre-dated the creation of the crime of genocide 50 years ago. Kambanda had sought two years or nothing in exchange for recording 90 hours of incriminating evidence against other alleged authors of blood-bath and for pleading guilty.

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Haemorrhagic fever epidemic threatens flood-hit China

BEIJING (AFP) — The health department of China's heavily flood-damaged northeastern Heilongjiang province has issued an emergency circular putting affected areas on guard for an epidemic of haemorrhagic fever, the Xinhua news agency said Friday.

The population of mice, which carry the deadly disease through parasite hosts such as mites, has risen sharply in flooded areas, it said.

"So many regions in the province face the danger of an outbreak," a ministry of health official was quoted as saying. Men in their prime are most likely to contract haemorrhagic fever, an

often fatal condition for which there is no effective treatment, he said.

A programme to exterminate mice was due to start, Xinhua said.

Health ministry officials have warned the entire northeast faces "mounting danger from a possible major outbreak of epidemics," with 500,000 left homeless by the floods still sleeping in makeshift accommodations in Heilongjiang alone.

Crowded, unsanitary conditions in refugee camps as well as the spread of human sewage by floodwaters have put health authorities on top alert, with outbreaks of typhoid and cholera

already reported.

Meanwhile in central China, President Jiang Zemin continued an inspection tour of flood-hit areas along the Yangtze River, state television reported.

"We have scored a decisive victory in the anti-flood struggle. Now we have to make all efforts to rebuild new homes," he told an audience of troops and flood evacuees.

Flooding of the Yangtze as well as the Songhua and Nenjiang rivers in the northeast this summer has killed at least 3,000 people and left an estimated 10 million to 14 million homeless.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope criticises use of force in Congo

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Pope John Paul II criticised Friday the attempt at achieving a "military solution" in the Congo, telling bishops from Zimbabwe that such use of force will only cause further grievances and injustice. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe has sent 3,000 troops into the Congo, backing President Laurent Kabila in a war against rebels. Angola and Namibia have also sent troops to help Kabila. John Paul decried the spread of armed conflict "in various parts of Africa, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo." "Yours is a peaceful nation," he told the visiting Roman Catholic bishops from Zimbabwe. "You must work to keep it so by reminding your people that a military solution to profound social and economic problems will always be an illusion and will be the cause of further grievances and injustices." Discussing Zimbabwe's problems, one of the bishops said that AIDS is expected to create more than a million orphans by 2000. "It is more than just a medical problem. It indeed needs a more radical approach of instilling moral values in our people," said Bishop Alexio Churu Muchabaiwa in his address during the meeting at the pope's vacation palace in the Alban Hills south of Rome.

Taiwanese politicians buying votes with Viagra

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Impotence drug Viagra has become the gift of choice of Taiwanese politicians looking to win support at the polls from voters, a newspaper reported Friday. Candidates in rural Taiwan, where vote buying has long been rife, are offering influential figures in their local political machines bottles of the little blue pills, the Independence Evening News reported. Viagra has not yet been approved for sale in Taiwan, and smuggled pills — in demand for the much vaunted boost they give to sexual performance — sell on the black market at up to four times their U.S. price. The higher value bestowed by their illicit status has made the pills a favourite among those who control votes, pushing aside imported liquor, cigarettes and good old fashioned cash, the report said. Viagra is already being smuggled in such quantities that Taiwan's Health Department has been compelled to produce a public service announcement reminding television viewers that the drug's importation can be punished with up to seven years in prison and a fine of 150,000 Taiwan dollars (\$4,285). The department is still studying reports of the drug's side effects from the United States and other countries where it is legal, said Hu You-Pu, head of the department's pharmaceuticals division.

U.N. rights chief plays down expectations of China visit

GENEVA (AP) — The United Nations' top human rights official played down expectations Friday of her forthcoming trip to China, giving few details of her programme beyond meetings with authorities. Mary Robinson said she hoped to "interact as far as possible with the civil society in China" during her week-long official visit starting Monday but declined to elaborate on who she will meet. "Clearly, part of not wishing to have unrealistic expectations is that a visit of this kind cannot address all of the issues that are issues of concern," the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights told a news conference. Robinson will meet Chinese President Jiang Zemin and deputy premier Qian Qichen on Sept. 14. Meetings with legal officials, lawmakers, women's groups and academics are also on her programme. Next Thursday, she travels to Tibet. There is "still some work to be done" on the planning of the visit, Robinson said. She is expected to spend two days there meeting authorities, local officials and "religious authorities and groups." For years China has been condemned by the West and human rights groups for suppressing dissent. In an attempt to blunt that criticism, the government this year said it would sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, meant to guarantee individual liberties. It has also released some well-known political prisoners. Human rights organisations are particularly concerned about the clampdown on the independence movement in Tibet. The Chinese seized the mountainous territory in 1950 and have ruled it as a province of China ever since. Given Chinese sensitivities over criticism of its rights record, U.N. officials are anxious not to ruffle Beijing's feathers. It is the first time the U.N. human rights chief has visited the country. Officials hope it will mark the start of a gradual process towards improved cooperation and understanding. Robinson said her visit should be seen as such a beginning. She will be encouraging the government to sign the civil and political rights covenant and signing a memorandum on technical cooperation with China.

Common painkiller may help lung cancer patients

LONDON (R) — A common over-the-counter painkiller could be a key ingredient in a new cocktail of drugs to improve treatment of lung cancer patients, British doctors said Friday. They are testing ibuprofen to see if the anti-inflammatory drug could help to prevent involuntary weight loss, a serious problem for many cancer patients. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. Surgery is the only cure but many patients are diagnosed too late and cannot be operated on. "Finding new ways to improve the quality of life of these patients enjoy, while the disease is managed, is of great importance," said Dr. John Toy, director of clinical programmes for Britain's Cancer Research Campaign which is funding trials on lung cancer patients. A combination of ibuprofen and megestrol acetate, a steroid drug used to treat breast cancer patients, reduced weight loss and improved the appetite of people with stomach cancer when it was given in trials. Dr. Donald McMillan of Glasgow Royal Infirmary will now test the drug combination and ibuprofen alone in a three-year study to see if either option works for 260 lung cancer sufferers. "It has been recognised for some time that following the administration of megestrol acetate a significant proportion of advanced breast cancer patients gain weight," McMillan said in a statement. "However, the findings in similar studies of patients with advanced gastrointestinal and lung cancer have been disappointing, but focusing on the inflammation produced by these tumours may be the key." Nearly half of patients suffering from liver, colon, brain and stomach cancers experience varying degrees of weight loss. McMillan described the inflammation caused by the tumour as a wound that does not heal. The body keeps reacting and other health problems begin. "Although no one knows why these other problems kick in, we do know that progressive weight loss is associated with poor prognosis in cancer patients," he added.

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NHF enters its 14th year with 'new outlook'

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THE NOOR AL HUSSEIN Founda-
tion (NHF) is celebrating its 13th
birthday this year with a new outlook
and an enhanced structure that will
ensure its continuous role as a beacon
and model of sustainable and com-
prehensive development in Jordan
and the region. Dr. Sima Bahous, the
NHF's executive director, stated
"The NHF has positioned itself as an
incubator of models of excellence, a
provider of sound training and a
facilitator of community self-
reliance."

of families and communities are
equitably addressed through sustain-
able development. The NHF also pro-
vides modalities that demonstrate
how non-government organisations
in Jordan can play a major role in
supporting the government's endeav-
ours to curb poverty and unemploy-
ment and in helping to successfully
implement the Social Productivity
Programme.

The foundation has embarked on
wide spectrum of areas both on a
national and regional level.

ness of cancer
and its treatment
and to build posi-
tive attitudes
towards the dis-
ease.

Other PAC
involvement
includes:
The Mobile
Life & Science
Museum initiated
in 1988 as an out-
reach programme
designed for rural
children. The
museum exhibits
focus on health
and hygiene, the
sciences, environ-
mental protection
and the history of
Jordan. It also
features a popular
children's library,
a travelling the-
atre (puppet shows that recount
stories of common social obstacles or
issues and ways to overcome them)
and video presentation facilities.

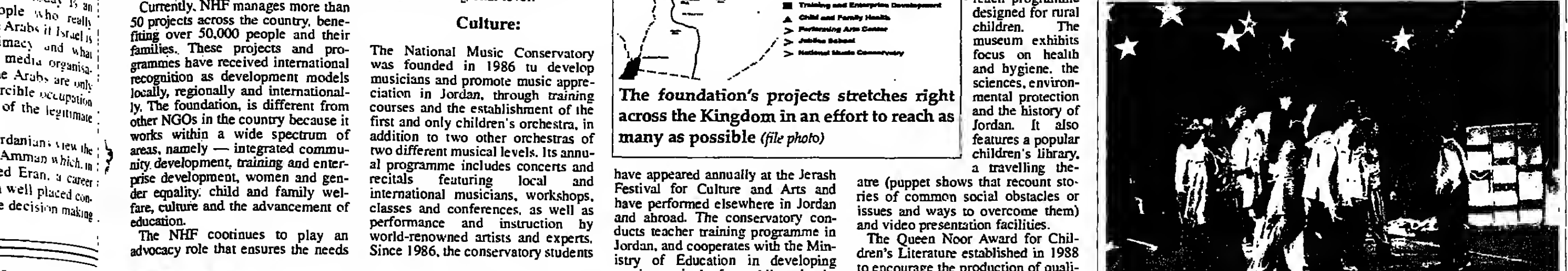
The Queen Noor Award for Chil-
dren's Literature established in 1988
to encourage the production of qual-
ity Arabic children's literature, includ-
ing short stories, novels, poetry,
plays, folk-tales and scientific works.

The Arab Children's Congress was
initiated following the 1980 Arab
Summit Conference in Amman, by
the NHF's PAC. It brings together
children from throughout the Arab
World in a programme especially
designed to promote understanding,
tolerance and solidarity. This year's
annual Arab Children's Congress
brought together children from 14
Arab countries in a programme espe-
cially designed to promote under-
standing, tolerance and solidarity.

The Jubilee School, established in
1993, is dedicated to the development
of the intellect and leadership poten-
tial of outstanding Jordanian high
school students with special empha-
sis on the economically underprivi-
leged from all regions of the country.
The school helps set national stan-
dards of excellence by providing its
students with highly trained staff,
modern laboratories, workshops and
classrooms. The Jubilee School this
year was ranked the first in the King-
dom with a 100 per cent student pass
rate in the tajwili exams and with the
top student in the Kingdom.

a one-year vocational training pro-
gramme in weaving, ceramics, silk
screening and clay production as well
as courses for the public and an in-
service programme for vocational
trainers. The SHTC also includes
fully operational production units for
ceramics, weaving and silk screening
as well as a clay making facility that
distributes clay for earthenware pro-
duction to government schools and
the private sector. This year, the

(WHO) and the Ministry of Health.
The projects aim to develop a pio-
neering model for comprehensive
national and regional development by
integrating enterprises development,
health, sanitation, agriculture, educa-
tion, and environmental awareness
with the development of community
leadership and management. The pro-
ject has established 20 rural Village
Development Councils that identify
community priorities and then design



The foundation's projects stretches right across the Kingdom in an effort to reach as many as possible (file photo)

have appeared annually at the Jerash
Festival for Culture and Arts and
have performed elsewhere in Jordan
and abroad. The conservatory con-
ducts teacher training programme in
Jordan, and cooperates with the Min-
istry of Education in developing
music curricula for public schools.
The conservatory administers music
examinations in Jordan on behalf of
the British Associated Board of the
Royal Schools of Music.

Education:

The Performing Arts Centre (PAC),
established in 1987, houses the foun-
dation's programmes in theatre,
dance and a training centre for arts in
education. One of its major compo-
nents is the Theatre-in-Education
Programme, which was launched in
1987 to enhance children's learning
experiences through drama, theatre
and dance and to promote confi-
dence, self-awareness, creative
expression and self-learning. The
PAC has opened its new Theatre
School and is preparing to initiate its
dance school before the end of this
year.

The PAC and National Music Con-
servatory plan to produce jointly a
children's musical called "The Kind
Chemo" in November, to raise aware-

are (puppet shows that recount
stories of common social obstacles or
issues and ways to overcome them)
and video presentation facilities.

The Queen Noor Award for Chil-
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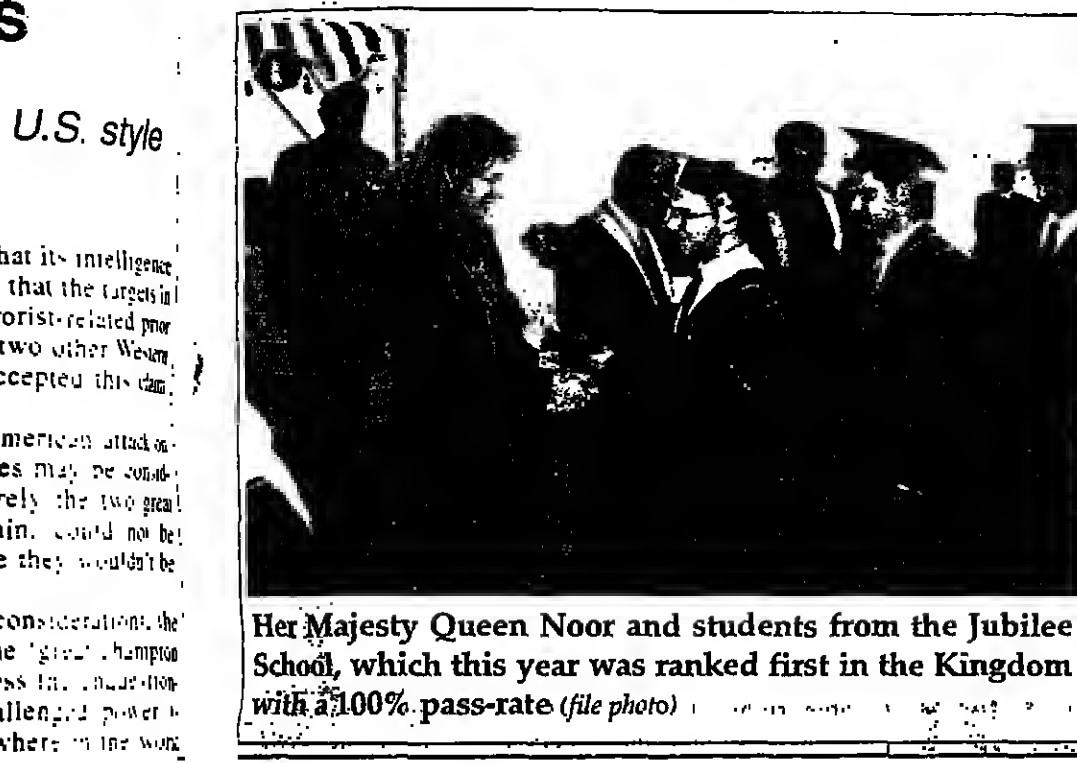
SHTC developed the Sultan Dinner
Set, comprised of 40 handmade
ceramic pieces with original designs
dating back to the Ottoman Empire
between 1500-1580 AD.

The Jordan Design & Trade Centre
(JDTC) was established in 1990 to
revive the Kingdom's handicraft heri-
tage to encourage craftsmen and
women to produce high quality
products and to create local and
international marketing opportuni-
ties. NHF's JDTC has been instru-
mental in creating thousands of rural
jobs in handicraft production through
the establishment of numerous small
businesses in wool processing, rug
weaving, embroidery, basketry, light
furniture production, paper making,
and jewelry production. JDTC pro-
vides services in small business man-
agement, technical training, design
and product development, sourcing
and procurement of raw materials,
and domestic and international mar-
keting. JDTC operates retail shops in
Amman, Petra, Aqaba, Jerash, dis-
tributes to North America through a
U.S.-based agent, and exports to
Europe and the Gulf.

and coordinate selected development
projects. As each village becomes
increasingly self-reliant, the project
selects new villages for replication.

The Quality of Life has been recog-
nised by WHO as a model of inte-
grated community development in
Jordan and the region. Over 300 in-
dividuals in the region have been
trained since 1995 on the methodol-
ogy, which has already been replicated
in several villages in Yemen. The pro-
ject works closely with other NHF
projects, (see map) to coordinate
technical assistance and training in
the communities where it is active in
distributing loans in the sectors of
services (restaurants, grocery shops,
sanitation fixtures), agriculture
(planting bananas, raising sheep and
cows, bee hives) and industry (car-
pentry workshops). The project also
combines leadership training with its
enterprise development programme.

The NHF has recently signed an
agreement with UNESCO to imple-
ment a joint microcredit programme
in 20 villages to be known as the
NHF/UNESCO Microcredit Pro-
gramme for Children in Need. This
joint endeavour will strengthen and
expand NHF's loan programme ben-
efiting needy families and their chil-
dren, which is already in place
through the Quality of Life Project
and which has registered the highest
repayment rates in Jordan.



Her Majesty Queen Noor and students from the Jubilee School, which this year was ranked first in the Kingdom with a 100% pass-rate (file photo)

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The Saturday Crossword

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TIME AFTER TIME
By Josiah Breward, Scranton, Pennsylvania

ACROSS

1 Designate

8 Church books

10 Switch positions

20 View from Mount
Pleasant

21 Of an embryo's
sac

22 Black sheep

23 1998 John Irving
novel

25 Italian actress
Eleanora

26 First name of a
concern

27 Pope who
negotiated with
AIDS

28 Crossed bread

30 Robert Fulton's
power

31 Boat holder

37 "Frankenstein, or
the Modern
Prometheus"

38 "Time magazine
author Shelley
honor, formerly
writer

43 Requirements

46 Quaint

49 Russian president
Boris

51 Art of the absurd

52 Rightless bird
from down under

53 Stravinsky and
Shostakovich

56 Her legacy

58 Operated

59 A month of
Sundays

64 Destructive ending

65 Dancer Charlene

66 Palestinian
language

67 Indian tea

68 Shipwreck

70 "Hello Dolly!"

74 Secret agents

75 Drive back

76 Of Icelandic tales

81 Small land mass

83 Whip

84 Blue

85 River in Turkey

86 1/1 to 1/201

91 Back of station?

92 Family car

94 Cubic meter

95 College seniors'
test abbr.

96 Sch. on the Rio
Grande

98 Large pump

102 Most packed with
evergreens

104 Get into one's
head

106 Rapid growth
scheme

109 Telephoned

111 Play back

112 Often fatal African
fever

116 "Unforgiven" man

120 Nemesis

123 Goddess of the
dawn

124 Rep. Gingrich

125 Marilyn Monroe
movie

131 Spoken

132 Airplane pilot's
concern

133 Take by surprise

134 Painful

135 Unseasoned
communal bread

136 Small soles

DOWN

1 Hebrew months

2 Lapping

3 "Common Sense"
writer

4 Quaint

5 Late starter?

6 Daily report

7 "Harley Labor"

8 Act

9 Allowance
provider

10 Kinky?

11 East Coast cape

12 Abandon truth

13 Plaything

14 French summers

15 Money of Iran

16 Beet it

17 Requested
school

18 language
classification

19 Melt together

20 Potential plant

21 Norwegian king

22 Moving vehicle

23 Oscar gip

24 Madonna's Curie

25 "Haw"

26 Popeye's Olive

27 Network of nerves

28 Hungarian leader,
Imre

29 Kinky's family

30 Selling measure

31 Thelma or Tex

32 6/6/44

33 Man from Tarsus

34 Opium plant

35 "Threats"

36 1937-1953 conflict

37 Dame

38 Scandinavian rug

39 Hr. with a shrink

40 Barest sound

41 President of
northern Iraq

42 Meat jelly

43 Gorbachev's wife

44 Get a noiseful

45 Rascal, the painter

46 Lupino and Tarbell

47 Insertion symbol

48 Quail

49 Spots

50 Glider high

51 Long-plumed bird

52 Raccoon's tin

53 Blow-up letters?

54 Earl

55 Comic Johnson

56 Star of "Edwards
Scissorhands"

57 Seed coat

58 Of the kidneys

59 St. Petersburg's
river

60 Chatter

61 Sits, casually

62 Elegantly stylish

63 Bath or Claire

64 Opposite of SSE

65 Order of the day

66 Depend

67 Attained

68 Seven of Rome

69 Clap droppings

70 Son of Seth

71 Space starter?

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Bankers see cheaper funds from CBJ to IDB and ACC spurring investment

By Soleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has provided cheaper credit to specialist financing bodies to spur investment, which has been slowed by tight monetary policy to defend the dinar, bankers said Thursday.

Bankers said the Central Bank will provide 30 million dinars (\$42 million) of cheaper credit in addition to an existing 10 million dinars already granted to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) to lend at preferential rates to investors in industry, agriculture and tourism.

"It will help encourage financing of industrial and tourism projects by making

available debt financing at lower rates," Tayseer Wahbeh, deputy general manager of the Jordan Industrial Development Bank, told Reuters.

The Central Bank will also provide another extra 10 million dinars of credit lines to the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), the state-run body providing cheap loans to farmers.

Officials said the move should ease effects of a tight monetary policy on stagnant business after a four percentage point interest rate hike to bolster the dinar.

It was prompted by a spate of dollar buying in the local market which started early last month on concerns over King Hussein's health, which have since eased.

The interest rate hikes widened the difference between the dinar and dollar interest yields to more than four percentage points. Many industrialists blame a high interest rate policy for sluggish growth in some industrial sectors because of the high cost of borrowing which has dampened investment.

Bankers say the injection of cheaper credit, even at such modest levels, should have a positive ripple effect on growth.

"The availability of the 40 million dinars on a revolving basis will have a multiplier effect in providing less costly funding to spur growth," said senior banker Mufleh Agel.

The economy is forecast to post modest growth this year. Gross domestic prod-

uct (GDP) grew just 0.8 per cent in 1996 and 2.2 per cent last year.

As part of its move, the Central Bank lowered lending rate ceilings offered by the Industrial Development Bank to a maximum of 10.0 per cent on fixed assets against 11.5 per cent previously, and to 10.5 per cent on working capital against a previous 12.00 per cent.

This compares favourably with between 12 to 15 per cent lending costs charged by Jordan's private commercial banks.

The bank, under a special statute, has tax breaks which are not allowed to other private banks, in return for provision of low-cost and medium- and long-term loans to industrialists through its access to cheap-

er central bank funding.

Although bankers say the credit will be available only for projects and not to firms suffering from liquidity problems, the move is expected to encourage investors to undertake projects currently on hold due to prohibitive borrowing costs.

The specialist bank is 12 per cent owned by the government, with the rest of its capital held by Jordan's major banks, foreign, local institutional and private investors.

Jordan's commercial banks shy away from providing long-term credit and most loans are for less than five years, while the Industrial Development Bank provides up to 10 years with two years' grace.

World Bank chief says development requires participation of several sectors

From Ghali Alul In
Marrakesh

WORLD BANK President James Wolfensohn has said that economic development is not a job for one global body alone but requires participation of several sectors, including civil society and elected government.

"We have concluded in our institution that we cannot do this alone. We need a four-way partnership with international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society, and elected governments," Wolfensohn said Thursday.

The World Bank official was addressing the opening session here of the second Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF).

The MDF, which brought together more than 400 senior government officials, members of the private sector, academics, practitioners, and representatives from non-governmental organisations is a partnership which aims at disseminating knowledge, building skills, and fostering networks among the development community in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

In his opening speech, Moroccan Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed stressed the need for the mobilisation and participation of the greatest number of people if the countries of the region are to succeed in the building of a modern state.

He said although the

MENA region has scored "undeniable economic gains" in the last two decades, most of the countries continue to cope with major disparities.

"Our development will remain vulnerable for as long as our growth is not equitably and widely shared," the prince said.

World Bank Vice President Kamal Dervis urged developing countries to promote private-public interaction in order to deal with world economic blocs, attain economic stability and maximise the benefits of globalisation. Dervis stressed the importance of the role the media can play in articulating

(Continued on page 9)

Dull trading likely to continue at AFM during this week

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Financial Market (AFM) general price index lost 5.58 points last week as share prices of most companies fell, brokers said Friday.

The brokers said "weak" half-year results of most companies discouraged investors from entering the market.

Amer Muasher, a broker, said the fall in the share prices of Arab Bank and Arab Potash Company (APC) was mainly responsible for the decrease in the general price index in the previous week.

"The two firms make up 50 per cent of the AFM.

Any change in their prices will affect the price index and the turnover," Muasher told the Jordan Times.

The AFM's weekly bulletin indicated that general price index closed at 177.18 points down from 182.76 points a week before, or a 3.05 per cent decline.

The industrial sector's price index dropped by 3.80 points, or 4.43 per cent, while that of the insurance sector went down by 8.47 points, or 2.82 per cent.

The bulletin showed that turnover fell by 11.5 per cent to JD5.2 million down from JD5.9 million in the previous week. The

(Continued on page 9)

REUTERS • REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	MLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7335	0.6908	1.4532	134.10	1.6295	1713.20	1.9580	6.8125
DE Mark	0.5769	-	0.3449	0.8204	77.41	0.8810	987.38	1.1288	3.3805
GB Sterling	1.6707	2.9004	-	2.3753	224.89	2.5653	2864.14	3.2731	9.7185
CH Franc	0.7026	1.2181	0.4189	-	94.35	1.0741	1202.96	1.3747	4.0818
JP Yen	0.0075	1.2827	0.4460	1.0608	-	1.1401	12.78	145.84	4.3328
CA Dollar	0.6838	1.2916	0.4225	1.0386	1.14	-	1270.80	1.4581	4.3285
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0128	0.3484	0.8051	1278.45	0.8931	-	11.42	3.3940
NL Guilder	0.6107	0.8589	0.3057	72.74	68.49	0.7810	874.96	-	2.9701
FR Franc	0.1720	0.2982	0.1029	24.4831	23.05	0.2631	33.65	33.6600	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7500	0.3770	3.6400	0.2643	0.16901	1617.00	3.4775
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2891	0.5317	5.1340	0.4282	0.1777	2139.83	4.8202
Saudi Riyal	0.2667	0.1891	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	404.63	0.9113
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	9.9472	-	9.86	0.8072	9.74	4023.85	0.9682
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0302	1.0302	-	0.0836	1.01	410.76	0.9389
Kuwait Dinar	3.2862	2.3299	12.3234	1.2389	11.96	-	12.05	4885.21	0.9389
Emirates Dinar	0.2724	0.1931	1.0215	1.0215	0.9816	0.0823	-	412.24	0.9389
Lebanese/1000	0.85	0.4674	2.4720	0.2485	2.3995	0.2006	2.4190	-	2.2628
Egyptian	0.2926	0.2075	1.0973	0.1103	1.0691	0.0890	1.0742	443.89	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	14.64	14.87
Bonny	0.00	0.00
Dubai	12.37	11.95
UL Gas	131.00	131.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4625	0.16901	0.3770	36.7731
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.47245	0.16906	0.37898	36.843
KW Dinar	3.2862	0.70128	1.96696	4.57948	440.917
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.40193	1.55791	3.77788	358.872
CY Pound	1.9501	3.3531	1.1678	2.7771	281.51

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	285	285.5
Silver (oz's)	4.58	4.61
Platinum (oz's)	365	367
AL (3 Months)	1413	1414
CU (3 Months)	1672	1673
Zinc (3 Months)	1051	1052
Lead (3 Months)	541	542
NI (3 Months)	4350	4355

Libor Fixing					
Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-	-1-
C'mny	Month	Months	Months	Year	Year
USO	5.6250	5.6325	5.6625	5.6800	5.6800
GBP	7.5703	7.5898	7.5158	7.3750	7.3750
JPY	0.6280	0.6211	0.6133	0.6133	0.6133
DEM	3.4888	3.5000	3.5820	3.6328	3.6328
FRF	1.5538	1.5563	1.7344	1.7330	1.7330
CHF	3.5000	3.5527	3.6035	3.6999	3.6999
ITL	0.2300	0.0300	0.4500	-	-

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls		
New York	DOW JONES	7677.07	-4.18	-0.07	7760.75	7627.89	7682.22		
New York	S&P 500	978.84	-3.82	-0.37	991.41	974.65	982.25		
London	FT-SE 100	6133.3	14.8	0.24	6194.9	6113.5	6110.7		
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	14042.91	-218.33	-1.53	14185.9	14042.9	14261.2		
Paris	CAC 40	3690.75	44.29	1.21	3726.1	3647.89	3648.46		
Frankfurt	DAX	4820.25	8.07	0.17	4945.47	4765.33	4812.16		

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (cibul)	113.42	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	2010	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	234	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	100	Spot
Soy (\$/cibul)	24.4	Spot
Tea (\$/kg)	125	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	410	Spot

JOD Cross Rates			
Currency	Buy	Sell	
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.1821	1.188	
DE Mark	0.4057	0.4077	
CH Franc	0.4819	0.4844	
JP Yen	0.121	0.1218	
FR Franc	0.516	0.5195	
IT Lira	0.3954	0.3912	
NL Guilder	0.4107	0.4125	

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Citibank expects losses of \$200 million in Russia

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.S.-owned Citibank has said it expected losses from operations in Russia to reduce its after-tax earnings by about \$200 million in the third quarter.

Citibank's headquarters Citicorp attributed the losses to volatility in the markets but said the

planned merger with Travelers Group "remains on track."

Travelers owns the stock brokerage Salomon Smith Barney which has reported losses of about \$150 million.

Citicorp and Travelers were due to form the largest provider of financial services in the world.

BritishBank courses at Radisson SAS for Middle Management

BRITISHBANK held a two-week intensive course at the Radisson SAS Hotel. The course was designed specifically for BritishBank middle management. The course focused on three main aspects of management role effectiveness: communication skills and influencing skills.

The role effectiveness course embraced all objectives concerning the ability of participants to be more proactive and creative in their role, to encourage participants to increase their influence, use their empowerment and to develop participants' interpersonal skills. Moreover, the communication skills course covered several objectives of which to raise individuals' awareness of their current communication expertise, practice and develop effective verbal communication skills. As for the influencing skills course main objectives was to practice and develop an effective range of influencing skills and identify current effective use and overuse of various influencing styles.

BritishBank has been a principal member of the HSBC Group since 1959. Headquartered in London with 130,000 staff in more than 5,500 offices in 81 countries and assets of over GBP286 billion (as at 31 December 1997), HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. Among the other principal members of the Group are Hong Kong Bank in Asia, Midland Bank in Europe and Marine Midland Bank in the United States of America.

Inmarsat director general opens Dubai regional centre

Inmarsat, the world's only provider of global mobile satellite communications, officially opened its Dubai Regional Centre today.

Inmarsat's Director General, Warren Grace, met with Mr. Abdullah Ahmad Looah, under-Secretary of the UAE Ministry of Communications and Mr. Ali Salem Al-Owais, General Manager, Emirates Telecommunications Corporation (Etisalat) in Abu Dhabi before opening the Regional Centre in Dubai. In February this year, Mr. Abdullah Ahmad Looah signed an agreement with George Symeonidis, Inmarsat's Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Strategy to establish an Inmarsat Regional Centre in Dubai.

The centre is headed by Dr. Mohammad El Amin, Inmarsat's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa. He will lead a small team of technical and business development professionals to develop mobile satellite communication services through the region.

Inmarsat has previously established resident offices in Beijing, China and project offices in Delhi, India and Lagos, Nigeria.

About Inmarsat
Inmarsat is an internationally owned cooperative that provides mobile satellite communications worldwide. Established in 1979 to serve the maritime community, Inmarsat has since evolved to become the only provider of global mobile satellite communications for distress and safety requirements and commercial applications at sea, in the air, and on land.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Down: book
2 Chair place
3 Money in Sri Lanka
4 Apple discard
5 Pressing device
6 Plus feature
7 Some time hence
8 Composer Porter
9 Meat-and-potatoes dish
10 Actor Mino
11 Trompe-l'œil
12 Delicacy
13 "Pygmalion" writer's initials
14 Brain
15 That's enough
16 Stanley Gardner
17 Bars in Belgrade
18 "Who did it?" reply
19 Pasta-in-sour-cream dish
20 Rantunculous
21 Carry
22 Loyal
23 Cream-filled dessert
24 Wight, e.g.
25 Camera letters
26 Relic
27 Simon or Diamond
28 Slangy interfix
29 Traitor's breakfast
30 Crooner
31 Crosby
32 Sailing
33 Celebes or
34 Feels regret
35 Scout group
36 Sailing vessel
37 Quick and skilful
38 Self-perception
39 ODD
40 Bknt tops
41 Chicken the pace

1 Church recess
2 Evidence
3 Sadness
4 Loyal
5 Cream-filled dessert
6 Wound reminder
7 Flank steak
8 Stood up
9 Common spare to convert
10 Human parasites
11 Gold in Guadalajara
12 Row's egg
13 Indefinite pronoun
14 Wed on the sly
15 Emancipator
16 Massey
17 General Corporation
18 All one can carry
19 Sailor's jacket
20 Row's egg
21 Decorative pin
22 but surely
23 Overthrow
24 Blank

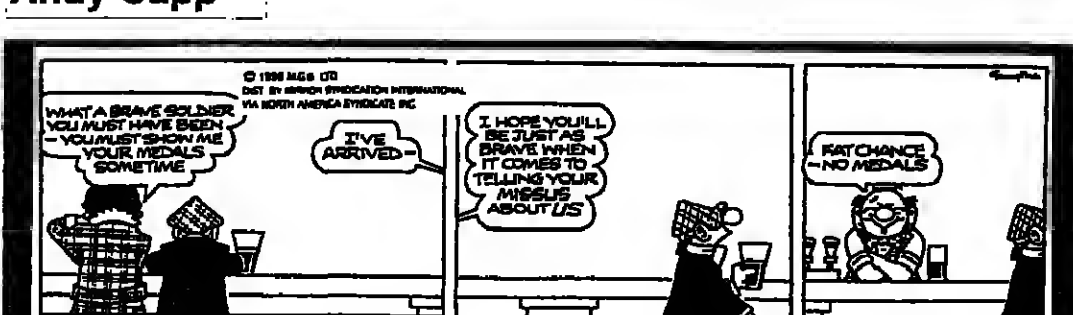
36 Icelandic saga
37 Drunkards
38 Rectifying
39 Honeydew, e.g.
40 Look at
41 Votes in
42 Point of contention
43 Love deeply

56 The same, on the Seine
57 Right on maps
58 Aware of
59 Corp. benches
60 Classification
61 Howl
62 Actress Belin
63 At this time

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RODAH
GUDOH
KLEESH
CULIES

Ans: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: ASSAY TANGY INBORN GIGGLE
Answer: Where the fans of a losing team often end up — IN TIERS

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U.S. Open Champs breeze but Sampras, Agassi struggle

NEW YORK (AFP) — Defending champions Martina Hingis and Pat Rafter won with ease. World number one Pete Sampras struggled a little. Andre Agassi and 1997 runner-up Greg Rusedski struggled a lot.

But all advanced to the third round of the U.S. Open with victories here Thursday, continuing an adherence to form that has seen only one major seed — Australian Open champion Petr Korda — bounced from the event.

Four-time U.S. Open winner Sampras moved one step closer to matching Roy Emerson's career record 12 Grand Slam singles titles by ousting American compatriot Paul Goldstein 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Sampras served 23 aces to win in two hours and eight minutes in a match postponed from Wednesday by rain and played in the second stadium, the first outer-court match for Sampras here since 1992.



Top seed Pete Sampras of the U.S. wipes his head during a break against Paul Goldstein of the U.S. during second round play at the USTA National Tennis Centre Thursday. The match had been scheduled for September 2 but was delayed due to rain. Sampras won 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 (Reuters photo)

"It wasn't a great day for me," Sampras said. "It was one of those days you find

a way to win. I was struggling a little bit. I wasn't really at my best."

Swiss World No. 1 Hingis dispatched 21st-ranked Iva Majoli 7-6 (7/4), 6-0, in a rematch of a 1997 French Open final won by the Croatian to deny Hingis a Grand Slam sweep.

Hingis has won five titles this year, including the Australian Open, but none since the Italian Open in early May. She overcame early jitters to win another rain-out match.

"I was nervous in the beginning," Hingis said. "I was up 4-1 but I didn't feel in control of the match. I felt nervous the first set. It was strange."

Australia's Rafter, showing few ill effects from a five-set opening victory over Morocco's Hicham Arazi, trounced 104th-ranked Argentinian Hernan Gury 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

"It was tough. Today I found it tough to get up," Rafter said.

"It was important to get off to a good start. If I got down I would have been very hard on myself. You feel a little mentally drained."

Britain's Rusedski rallied past Czech Bohdan Ulihrach 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, his second five-set triumph in a row. He saved one match point after having rescued two earlier against South Africa's Wayne Ferreira.

"I want to make sure I give you an exciting match," Rusedski joked, saying he had no endurance fear with Dutchman Jan Siemerink up next.

"It doesn't bother me. I just have to keep going and playing better," Rusedski said. "It's just a matter of

playing big points better. I had to be mentally focused. You need a little bit of luck sometimes as well."

Eighth seed Agassi outlasted France's 45th-ranked Guillaume Raoux 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 3-6, 6-1. The American stayed on course for a possible quarter-final meeting with Sampras despite squandering the fourth set due to his anger over his mistakes in the tie-breaker.

"It was certainly a wake-up call for me to be up two sets, not close it out and be in a three-hour battle," Agassi said. "It's only going to help me. I don't mind. It wasn't a tremendously fatiguing match."

Agassi was thinking back to the Australian Open, where he squandered a two-set lead, losing a fourth-round match to Spain's Alberto Berasategui.

"Don't think that wasn't going through my mind," Agassi said. "I was frustrated at myself in the fourth for not executing in the tie-breaker. The fourth set was careless tennis. You have to move on and forget about it or you're going to be in the fifth. I had to turn it around."

Wimbledon finalist Goran Ivanisevic, whose 91-39 Grand Slam record makes him the winningest Slam player to overtake a Slam title, advanced by beating American Todd Martin 1-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5, 6-3.

The 14th-seeded Croatian next plays Dutchman Paul Haarhuis, whose 7-3 career record against Ivanisevic includes winning their past five matches in a row.

"Every time I see him I make problems for myself," Ivanisevic said. "But this is a Grand Slam and I won't let that happen."

Teeo stars Anna Kournikova and Venus Williams advanced easily.

The Russian ousted Czech Radka Bobkova 6-3, 6-4, while Williams needed only 57 minutes to oust Luxembourg's 137th-ranked Anne Kremer 6-1, 6-3.

Second seed Lindsay Davenport ousted American compatriot Lori McNeil 6-1, 6-1 while fourth seed and French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain beat Colombia's Fabiola Zuluaga 6-3, 6-2.

"I feel comfortable," Sanchez said. "When you win a Grand Slam, that gives you a lot of confidence. What's important is



Andre Agassi of the U.S. returns a backhand against Guillaume Raoux of France during their second round U.S. Open match Thursday. Agassi, a former champion, is the eighth seed (Reuters photo)

winning Grand Slams. That's what I'm looking for now. I don't have to prove anything."

Women's third-round play opens Friday with Hingis facing 31st-rated Amelie Mauresmo, who pushed the Swiss teen to three sets in a July Fed Cup match. "This is a different

time. This is a Grand Slam," Hingis said. Five-time U.S. Open champion Steffi Graf continues her comeback from left knee surgery against Croatia's Mirjana Lucic, the 16-year-old who last month moved away from her father, saying he often beat her.

Ninth seed Irina Spirlea faces Sereoa Williams, who has won both their 1998 meetings. Spirlea bumped Serena's sister Venus here last year during a crossover in the semi-finals, prompting Venus' father Richard to dub the Romanian a "white turkey."



Seventh seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain prepares for a return to Jacqueline Trail of the U.S. Thursday in Flushing Meadows, New York (AFP photo)

Tennis becomes afterthought in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — The roar of jets passing over the U.S. Open took on an ominous tone Thursday. Players chasing Grand Slam glory struggled with a tragic crash that nearly claimed one of their own.

While top-seeded Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis reached the third round, tennis was mostly an afterthought as players reflected on the dangers they face while flying around the globe.

"That's certainly one of your biggest fears, to say good-bye to your loved ones and not return," said Andre Agassi, who also won a sec-

ond-round match. "When you travel the world like we do, you're bound to have your share of travel difficulties. But you pray to God you don't have to go through something like that."

Hingis moved one step closer to defending her title with a 7-6 (7/4), 6-0 victory over Iva Majoli a few hours after hearing about the crash of Swissair Flight 111 off the Canadian coast, killing all 229 people aboard.

Hingis, a national heroine in her homeland of Switzerland, said she knows many Swissair flight attendants.

"It was terrible to hear it," Hingis said. "It's the airline I fly the most. When I heard I was like, 'No way. Swissair seems very safe.' It's terrible to know you don't have any chance up there."

Marc Rosset, the top Swiss male player, had been set to return to Geneva on Flight 111 Wednesday night after losing in the first round. Instead, he stayed an extra day to practice with players still in the tourney.

"It was a strange feeling when you know you just realize that for just changing your mind you are still alive," he said.

"I think I am a little afraid, when you realize you were close to dying," Sampras, seeking his fifth U.S. Open crown, had 23 aces while overcoming early sloppiness to reach the third round with a 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Paul Goldstein.

Sampras had 43 unforced errors in the first two sets and double faulted on set point to lose the second set, but settled down in the final two sets. He will not face a seeded player before a possible encounter with Agassi in the quarterfinals.

Agassi, seeded eighth, struggled midway through his match before defeating Guillaume Raoux 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 3-6, 6-1, finishing the match with his 10th ace. The night match featured the talent and temper of the tempestuous Goran Ivanisevic, who had 20 aces and a 212 kph serve in a 1-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5, 6-3 victory over Todd Martin.

The 14th-seeded Ivanisevic muttered to himself in Croatian and hanged his head on the court after missing points. But he also won a point with a spectacular shot between his legs with his back to the net.

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- Business: marketing, economics, management, equine studies.
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- Computing and information technology.

You are invited to meet Dr Hafid Al-Daffae in the

Conference Room
Amman International Hotel
Opposite University of Jordan

on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 September 1998
between 16.00 to 20.00 hours

To help with any decisions please bring with you the original transcripts of your results.

We very much look forward to meeting you.

Enquiries to: Amman 5348274 (Amman International Hotel).



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TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Richard Yates Theatre
	Robert Duvall & Tea Leoni...in DEEP IMPACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Leonardo Di Caprio...in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD 11 Jodi Foster...in CONTACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD 22 UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria GODZILLA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria CITY OF ANGELS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM at 10:30 p.m.	WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY

Accusing them of supporting Kurdish rebels Turkey starts political offensive against Syria, Iran and Iraq

Agencies

TURKISH DEPUTY Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit accused Iran and Syria Friday of "open" support for the armed Kurdish rebels fighting against the central power of Ankara.

Ecevit accused Iran of giving refuge to fighters from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and allowing the rebels to use Iranian territory as a springboard for attacks against Turkey. He made the remarks during a visit by Iraq's Kurdish leader Massud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), whom the vice-premier met in Ankara.

Turkey has long accused Syria of lending the rebel Kurds logistical support and of sheltering the movement's leader Abdullah Ocalan, either in Damascus or the Syrian-controlled Beqaa valley in Lebanon.

Syria denies the accusations. Tehran likewise denies Ankara's claims that it turns a blind eye to PKK infiltrations via the north of Iraq.

The accusations came shortly before a visit to Tehran by Turkey's Foreign Minister

Ismail Cem, scheduled for September 14-15. The PKK has been leading an armed rebellion against Ankara since 1984, aimed at creating an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Anatolia. An estimated 31,000 people have died in the conflict.

Turkey also warned Iraq on Friday to stay out of its fight with Kurdish rebels, saying it had gotten new evidence that Saddam Hussein was supporting the Kurdish guerrillas.

"We are receiving information that the Iraqi administration is supporting the PKK," Ecevit said, referring to the outlawed PKK. "This will hurt Iraq more than it hurts Turkey."

Turkey has been at war against the PKK since 1984. The PKK is fighting for autonomy for Kurds in Turkey's southeast.

The KDP has been involved in sporadic fighting with Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) since 1994 for control of the north of Iraq, which Baghdad lost control of after the Gulf War of 1991.

Fighting broke out between the two groups when their partnership collapsed due to rows over power-sharing and tax

revenue. More than 3,000 people have been killed in intermittent fighting since then, although in a sign of improved relations, the KDP and the PUK have recently exchanged more than 200 prisoners.

Barzani is also due to come together with his rival Talabani for U.S.-sponsored peace talks later this month, his chief aide Sami Abderrahman said.

The KDP has also been fighting with Ankara's blessing to dislodge the rebel PKK from its rear bases in the north of Iraq since May 1997. A former PKK commander captured last May, Semdin Sakik, confirmed Thursday that Syria is the "headquarters" of the rebel Kurd movement against Ankara.

"I and other PKK leaders know that Syria does not want peace in Turkey," said Sakik during his trial in Diyarbakir in the southeast of the country.

Sakik was captured in the north of Iraq and taken to Turkey by Turkish troops after defecting from the PKK following disagreements with its leader Ocalan.



CHINESE OPERA: Princess Turnadot (center left) sings before her father, the emperor of China (sitting on his throne), during Giacomo Puccini's *Turnadot* on Thursday, a Chinese fairytale about the victory of love, being performed at the Imperial Ancestral Temple, located within the sacred walls of Beijing's Forbidden City. Turnadot, one of the biggest opera productions ever, is conducted by world renowned maestro Zubin Mehta and directed by celebrated Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou (AFP photo)

Swissair jet crash kills 229

PEGGY'S COVE (AP) — A Swissair pilot reported smoke in the cockpit, dumped tonnes of fuel and prepared for an emergency landing before his jetliner crashed into the ocean off Nova Scotia, killing all 229 people aboard.

Flight SR111 from New York to Geneva plunged into the Atlantic late Wednesday night about 90 minutes after leaving Kennedy International Airport at 8:18 p.m. 10018 GMT Thursday.

It carried 215 passengers — including two infants — and 14 crew.

Most of the passengers — 136 — were Americans, as was one crew.

By Thursday morning, 36 bodies had been found and searchers had located a chunk of the plane's fuselage believed to be intact under about 35 metres of

water. Heavy surf hampered search efforts.

"Time is not on our side," said Maj. Michel Brisebois of the rescue centre. Bodies were being taken to a temporary morgue at the Canadian Forces Base Shearwater, 50 kilometres to the east.

Chances of survival at this point are "very poor," Royal Canadian Mounted Police Staff Sgt. Keith McGuire said.

The McDonnell Douglas MD-11 reported problems at 10,000 metres, then descended to roughly 2,500 metres before disappearing from radar about 50 kilometres south of Halifax International Airport, said Philippe Bruggisser, chief executive officer of Swissair's parent group.

The crash occurred between seven and 10 minutes before the plane would have reached Halifax, he said at a news conference in Zurich.

The passengers had been prepared for an emergency landing.

Swissair officials said some bodies had been recovered wearing lifevests.

Aside from the Americans, passengers included 30 French and 28 Swiss citizens; six British citizens; three Germans; three Italians, two Greeks.

One passenger each came from Saudi Arabia, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iran, Spain and Russia, and the Caribbean island of St. Kitts.

In New York, Swissair Vice President Walter Vollenweider said the list was based on passports and cautioned: "This is no indication about the residences of these people."

originally planned to land in Boston because Swissair has an infrastructure there, but then headed to Halifax because it was closer.

Swissair identified the pilot as Urs Zimmermann, 50, and co-pilot Stefan Loew, 36. Both were Swiss.

Witnesses on the ground reported hearing sputtering noises from an aircraft passing overhead and then a thundering crash.

"The motors were still going, but it was the worst-sounding deep groan that I've ever heard," said witness Claudia Zinck-Gilroy.

Dozens of fishing boats and coast guard ships immediately beamed out in driving rain to the crash site, about ten kilometres off the coast of Peggy's Cove, a picturesque fishing village popular with tourists.

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq to replace veteran U.N. envoy

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq's high-profile ambassador to the United Nations is leaving his post for a more senior job in Baghdad, officials said Thursday.

Nizar Hamdoun, one of President Saddam Hussein's most trusted aides, will likely leave at the end of the year after six years at the United Nations, Iraqi officials in Amman, told the Associated Press by telephone.

His job could go to the deputy foreign minister, Riyadh Al Qaisi, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They declined to say what post Hamdoun could get.

Hamdoun's transfer is the latest in a recent reshuffle of diplomatic missions, the biggest that Saddam has ordered since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Some 30 ambassadors and other diplomats have been recalled since July to be replaced by prominent journalists and officials from the ruling Baath Party. Saddam reportedly hopes that the new officials will be able to improve Iraq's image that has been tarnished since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

However, Hamdoun's recall is not considered a demotion.

A former deputy foreign minister, Hamdoun was made ambassador in 1992 after the war, and has frequently led Iraq's negotiations with U.N. weapons inspectors who are entrusted with dismantling the country's weapons of mass destruction.

Fluent in English, Hamdoun was the first Iraqi ambassador to the United States after the two countries restored diplomatic relations in 1984 ending a nearly 20-year break.

'Israel had the bomb in '67'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel built its first nuclear bomb shortly after the 1967 six-day war, according to Israeli press reports on a book to be published soon in the United States.

In the book "Israel and the Bomb," researcher Avner Cohen said he pinpointed the moment Israel entered the nuclear weapons club by studying thousands of Israeli and U.S. government documents and interviewing hundreds of people involved in Israel's nuclear programme.

Israel has never acknowledged having an atomic arsenal but experts estimate the Jewish state has built between 100 and 200 nuclear weapons in a programme launched with French assistance in the 1950s.

Mark Heller of Tel Aviv's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies said there is no general consensus on when Israel built its first bomb except that it is believed to have occurred before the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

"Most accounts of the 1973 war include references to concerns, particularly in the United States, that Israel may have been preparing to use nuclear weapons" after severe setbacks at the start of the war, Heller said.

He said U.S. President Richard Nixon's decision to airlift weapons to Israel during the war was widely seen as designed to avoid Israel using its nuclear bomb in desperation.

According to Cohen's book, it was also Nixon who convinced then-Prime Minister Golda Meir to maintain a policy of deliberate ambiguity about Israel's nuclear capability.

Israeli court rejects custody call for Jewish extremist

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli court Friday rejected a police request to hold a Jewish extremist in custody who was accused of anti-Palestinian violence in the divided West Bank city of Hebron.

The court rejected the police and prosecution argument that Noam Federman, a far-right militant and former member of the outlawed Arab movement Kach, should be detained as a "deterrent" to other activists.

Federman hailed the court ruling, saying he was the victim of "political persecution."

He was held for 24 hours at the weekend after being accused of striking a Palestinian and carrying out acts of vandalism against Arab targets in Hebron following the murder of a prominent Jewish settler.

"The resistance is a flaming torch that we will continue to carry until the liberation of our land," declared a defiant Suha Beshara, who has become a symbol of the Lebanese struggle against Israel's 20-year occupation.

The 31-year-old Beshara, who appeared pale but smiling at a press conference in Beirut, said she had no regrets over her 1988 attempt to murder Antoine Lahad, commander of the Israeli-allied South Lebanese Army (SLA).

"I will do it all over again, because I considered him a Jew and still do," she said. "What I did was not a crime, it was a Lebanese resistance action."

Beshara, a Christian and communist party member was freed — after 10 years without trial or charge in the SLA-run Khiam prison in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon — on Lahad's orders for "humanitarian reasons."

The Broadcasting Corporation said her release was part of a deal giving Lahad political asylum in France.

But Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, while thanking France for her mediation, denied Beshara was released as part of a deal or under any SLA-imposed conditions that she

Beshara, released, vows to continue resistance

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Lebanese woman jailed 10 years ago in a notorious prison for attempting to kill the leader of an Israeli-backed militia was freed Thursday and immediately vowed to continue the fight against Israel.

"The resistance is a flaming torch that we will continue to carry until the liberation of our land," declared a defiant Suha Beshara, who has become a symbol of the Lebanese struggle against Israel's 20-year occupation.

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But Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, while thanking France for her mediation, denied Beshara was released as part of a deal or under any SLA-imposed conditions that she

leaves Lebanon.

"She has a visa to France if she wants to leave, but there are no conditions... nobody can force a Lebanese to leave his country," Hariri said.

Beshara also denied the reports. "I am free to go where ever I want, even in southern Lebanon, but my parents informed me that I already had a visa to France."

After her release, Beshara was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross which escorted her out of the border enclave and later met Hariri in Beirut before going home to a euphoric welcome from her family.

Beshara was 21 when she was hired as a private tutor for Lahad's children with the mission of assassinating the

SLA commander, branded a traitor by the anti-Israeli resistance movement.

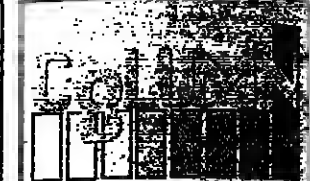
On Nov. 7, 1988, she opened fire on Lahad with a handgun at his home in Marjayoun, seriously wounding him in the jaw and the arm. Lahad was treated for several months in Israel and still suffers from partial paralysis in one arm.

Beshara was the best-known prisoner at Khiam, where human rights groups, particularly London-based Amnesty International, have catalogued numerous cases of torture and ill-treatment.

"I came to Beirut, but I am still with my (fellow prisoners) and we hope to liberate them all," she said.

When asked about torture,

(Continued on page 3)



Husband and wife meet at their marriage ceremony

SYDNEY (AFP) — Two complete strangers met in a Sydney hotel Friday, got married, then sat down to a reception with hundreds of people they had never seen. While arranged marriages are nothing new, this bizarre union was organised by a local radio station. During a seven-week promotion, the station ran a campaign to find the ideal couple. Almost 400 entries were culled by thousands of radio listeners and a panel of psychologists, astrologists and announcers from the station.

Yolanda King joins cast of a TV movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter has joined the cast of a TV movie about the 1960s civil rights struggle. Yolanda King has signed on to appear in the "Wonderful World of Disney" movie "Selma, Lord, Selma." The movie is based on two girls' experiences during the 1965 Selma, Alabama, voting rights march led by King, the black civil rights leader assassinated in 1968. Filming is set to begin in Georgia and Alabama this month. The movie is scheduled for broadcast in January.

Hashish and marijuana sold in ice cream truck

NEW YORK (R) — Maybe the ice cream truck's jingle should have been "White Rabbit." Some Brooklyn teenagers were allegedly feeding their heads as well as their stomachs from the local ice cream truck, until Brooklyn prosecutors indicted two Staten Island men and charged them with selling hashish and marijuana along with the usual popsicles, fudge bars and other frozen treats.

Escalante breaks the record

SAN JOSE (R) — Step aside Kenny G, here comes Giovanni Escalante. Escalante, 24, broke the American pop star's world record for blowing a single musical note into a saxophone by lasting one hour, 30 minutes and 45 seconds, according to the young musician and media reports. Escalante said he was able to hold the note after months of practising a technique that allows him to blow and breathe at the same time.

Entertainers make their versions of Beatles songs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood just can't let it be. Several entertainers do their own versions of Beatles songs on a new superhit compilation that includes Jim Carrey warbling "I'm a Believer" on "I'm a Believer." The recording, to be called "In My Life," will mark the retirement of 70-year-old Beatles producer George Martin. Celine Dion sings "Here, There and Everywhere," and Jeff Beck takes his guitar to "A Day in the Life." Robin Williams and Goldie Hawn also contribute to the MCA Records project.

Maradona 'a divine choice' as a coach

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Mexican soccer club is looking for a hand at the helm — and officials think former Argentine star Diego Maradona would be a divine choice. Eduardo Lescio, vice president of the Autonomous University of Guadalajara Tlaxcoas — or Ocho — said the club had offered Maradona the coaching job to replace the fired Victor Manuel Vucetich. "We are awailing his response," Vucetich said. Maradona was known for brilliant play, erratic behaviour and the "hand of God" goal against Britain in the 1986 World Cup.

Lives of sage's Egyptian followers gleaned from papyrus, wood

By Mariam Sami
The Associated Press

ISMANT EL KHARAB — It is an eye-straining job for religion professor Iain Gardner.

He pieces together 1,700-year-old wood and papyrus fragments from books and scrolls — recovering the teachings of an ancient religion founded by Mani, a Persian once revered from North Africa to China.

"It is like a jigsaw puzzle," Gardner said.

First, he reads the Old Coptic text, then uses clues like handwriting or a fragment's shape to identify which word fits which line. Ultimately the lines become pages.

Gardner is part of a scientific team working on the Dakheh Oasis Project, which has traced the anthropological record of the oasis in Egypt's vast Western Desert back hundreds of thousands of years.

About 5,000 writing fragments have been found so far at the site of a town founded 2,000 years ago and known in

ancient times as Kellis and today as Ismant El Kharab.

The pieces — the smallest is the size of a thumbnail — are rare testaments of Manichaeism, a creed that disappeared by the 14th century. Among its followers was the theologian St. Augustine, an adherent for nine years before he turned to Christianity — and against Manichaeism.

Mani believed he was the successor of Jesus. He put together elements from Christianity, Buddhism and Iran's fire-glorifying Zoroastrianism.

His writings in Syriac, an ancient language of the Middle East, were all lost. But the majority of those that had been translated into Old Coptic or Greek survived destruction by Christians, who considered Mani and his followers heretics.

Manichaeism, a faith of dualism, called for freeing the good — or light — trapped in human bodies regarded as inherently evil, or dark. Mani was considered an emissary of light who encouraged his followers to release the good in themselves.

"May also the right hand of light guard: and save you from every evil assault and from the snares of the world," says an excerpt from Mani's Fundamental Epistle.

Mani travelled wide to spread the faith. He died in prison at about age 60 after he returned to Iran in AD 276. Zoroastrian priests, seeing Mani as a threat to their status, wanted to get rid of him. After he died, his body was flayed and hung on a prison wall.

In Kellis, the Manichaeans left behind pots, tools and their religious writings. Most of the fragments found come from a single building that archaeologists call simply House Three.

The writings scrawled in black ink were "not splendid or ornate," said Gardner, who heads the School of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney in Australia and teaches early Christianity.

But they are "quite unique ... and very important to scholars," he said. Personal and business letters also were found.

A few other Manichaean texts are kept at the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin, Ireland, and the Egyptian Museum in Berlin.

Others have been found in Central Asia and China.

"But the ones found in Kellis have more variety and are within their context," Gardner said, noting the others were moved far from where they were discovered.

Kellis now is a desolate site of ruined mudbrick walls and stubs of round columns. Thousands of pieces of pottery shards, some coloured in pale blue and white, crunch under foot.

During the town's thriving past, a temple celebrated one of Egypt's old gods, Tutu. A church, believed to be one of the oldest in Egypt, was built in the 4th century.

Although Manichaeism was banned during the Roman Empire in the 4th century, Gardner said Manichaeism may have lasted in the Western Desert until the 7th century.

Judging by what they're finding, the archaeologists believe the

Manichaeans were able to live an ordinary life side by side with Christians, perhaps because Kellis was far from potential persecutors — the authorities based in the Nile Valley.

Some writings found in the ruins were simply shopping lists calling for buying wheat, lentils and chicken.

"Many of the letters are from family members with lots of greetings to aunts," Gardner said. "Often the men were away on trade in the Nile Valley and they wrote letters to their wives and sisters in Dakheh." Kellis still promises many surprises.

Gardner, who took four years to complete the first volume of Manichaean texts in 1996, expects to spend five years on a second volume and plans two further ones.

And beyond House Three, up to 100 other houses still need to be properly excavated.

"A great majority is still largely untouched," Gardner said. "One could carry on forever."